CIFT centres in Kerala

574. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about number and place of centres of Central Institutes of Fisheries Technology (CiFT) under the control of Indian Council of Agricultural Research functioning in Kerala;

(b) whether there is any proposal to close down these institutes in Kozhikode and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider to put off the decision, if any, for their closure and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi functioning under the control of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has research centres at Kozhikode (Calicut) in Kerala, New Bombay in Mumbai, Veraval in Gujarat, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Burla in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The Research Centre of CIFT functioning at Kozhikode is not an Institute, but a small Centre of CIFT. As the Institute's Headquarters located at Kochi in Kerala is addressing all the quality control and assurance aspects related to fish processing technology along the whole of Kerala coast, the expenditure finance committee, while considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the institute, in its meeting held at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi on 18.06.2003 decided to shift/merge the Centre with the Institute's Headquarters at Kochi. The other reasons for such decision of shifting/merger of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of identified centers for strategic and applied research. The decision has been taken in view of the approval of the X Plan Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting held on 18.06.2003, for consolidation of research efforts.

Effect of cheap ginger from China

† 575. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of giner from China in Indian market at very cheap price is adversely affecting the ginger production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the adverse impact on the production of the same in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The domestic prices of ginger which was ruling high till Decemebr, 2005, started declining thereafter inthe months of January - February, 2006 due to heavy fresh arrivals in the ensuing harvesting season starting from the months of Novemebr - December, 2005. The attractive price prevalent during last year encouraged the farmers to go in for cultivation of ginger in more areas and adopt intensive cultivations methods resulting in higher yield. Import of ginger into the country during 2005-06 was 13,370 tonnes valued at Rs. 30.62 crores as against the import of 10,518 tonnes valued at Rs. 22.10 crores during the year 2004-05. Since, imported ginger is inferior in quality, and is used for processing of powders, oil extraction for re-export etc, it may not have significant impact on the domestic market.

(c) The Government of India is implementing various promotional schemes for increasing the production and productivity of horticultural crop including ginger under the National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission on development of horticulture for the North-Eastern states.

Fooder crisis

576. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no policy exists in the country on how to feed the 500 million or so livestock in spite of the fact that in rural areas domestic animals are the engines that drive the economy;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the fodder and water crisis are part of the larger crisis of rural areas; and